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Letter dated 27 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Communiqué of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses deep concern at the decision of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to hold local elections in Kosovo and Metohija on 28 October 2000. The Ministry recalls that UNMIK and OSCE have not taken into account serious and good-intentioned warnings of a number of Governments and international governmental and non-governmental organizations that no elementary conditions have been created in Kosovo and Metohija for a free expression of will, short of which there can be no democratic, free and fair elections.

Holding elections under the conditions where no security and freedom of movement exist for members of all ethnic communities leads to the conclusion that the elections will be transposed into a competition of political parties of the Albanian ethnic community alone. At the same time, elections at which only Albanian representatives are elected into local authorities are transposed, contrary to proclaimed goals of the international community and Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), into a legalization of the policy of ethnic cleansing, and may be interpreted as support for separatism.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs draws attention also on this occasion to the fact that, owing to the lack of elementary conditions, the Serbian and other non-Albanian population still living in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as more than 200,000 Serbs and other Albanians forced to leave their homes in the past 16 months, will not take part in such elections.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs notes with regret that the holding of the local elections in the situation is not in accordance with the open and strong support rendered by the international community to the democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Insistence on holding the local elections in the present circumstances does not contribute to the stabilization of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija and the preservation of the multi-ethnic character of the Province, which is one of the principal goals of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasizes that only equitable participation by members of all ethnic communities in the elections, return of all refugees to the Province and their participation in the elections, equal security conditions and equitable access to the media can guarantee fair elections. The local elections in Kosovo and Metohija should therefore be postponed pending realization of the said conditions.